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24 August 1965

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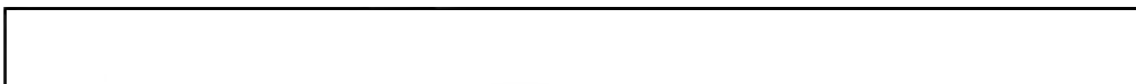
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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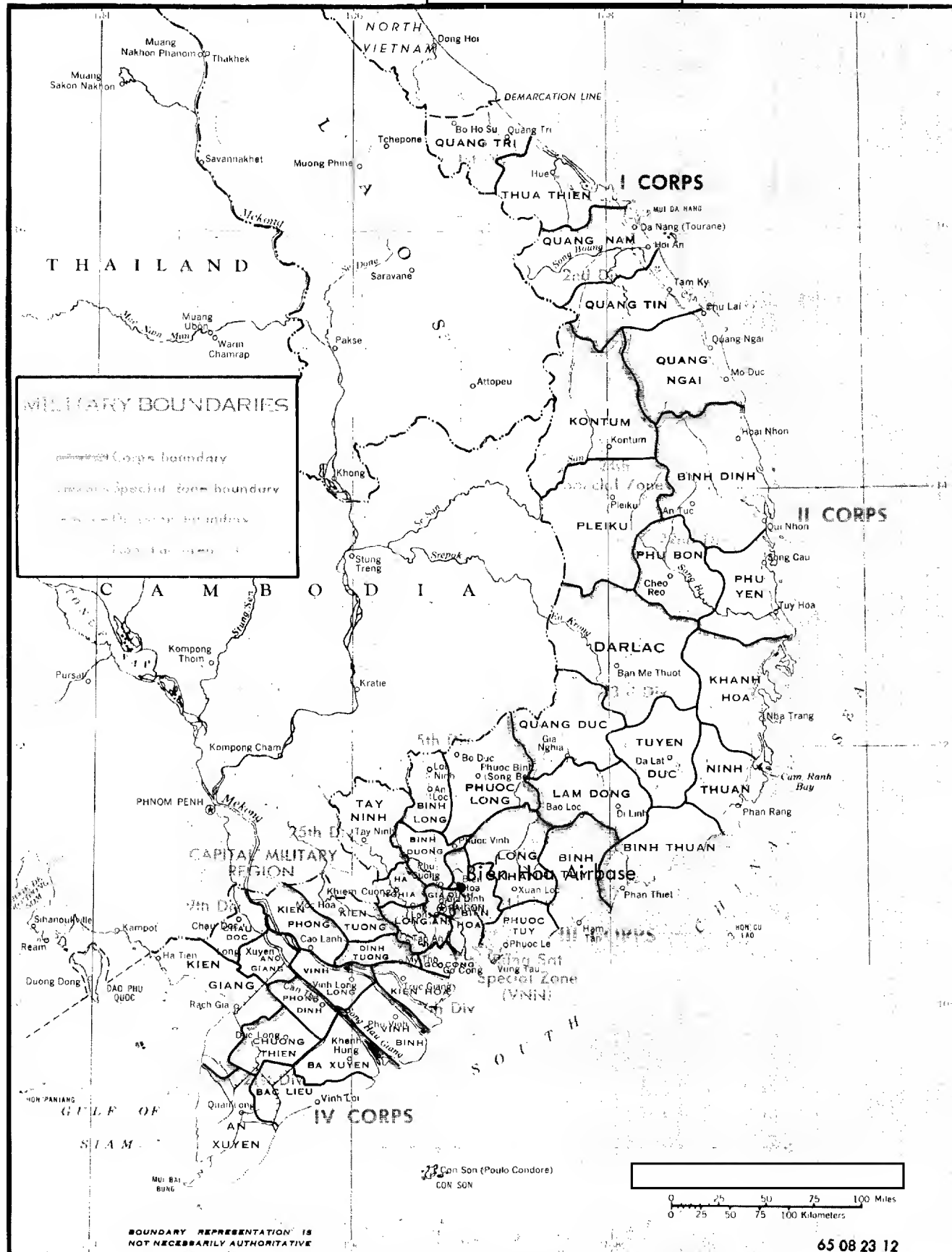
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Last night, a 15-minute Viet Cong mortar bombardment of Bien Hoa Air Base, northeast of Saigon, wounded 24 US personnel and inflicted minor damage on 19 USAF aircraft. Several buildings and many vehicles were also damaged.

According to preliminary reports, an estimated 20 mortar shells were fired from an area west of the base. There were no reports of attempted Viet Cong infiltration of the base itself.

The Political Situation in South Vietnam: The American Consul in Hue has reported that student meetings held in the city from 20-23 August have resulted in the formation of a "struggle group" opposing the current military regime in favor of a legally elected government. Another topic of discussion, the presence of foreign troops in South Vietnam, afforded some extreme student elements an opportunity to criticize the United States as a colonial power replacing the French. The main student opposition, however, appears to have resulted from the government's recent manpower mobilization decree, which would affect many students.

Student rallies of the last two days have concluded peacefully.

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Military Developments in North Vietnam: A thirteenth surface-to-air missile site has been tentatively identified [redacted]

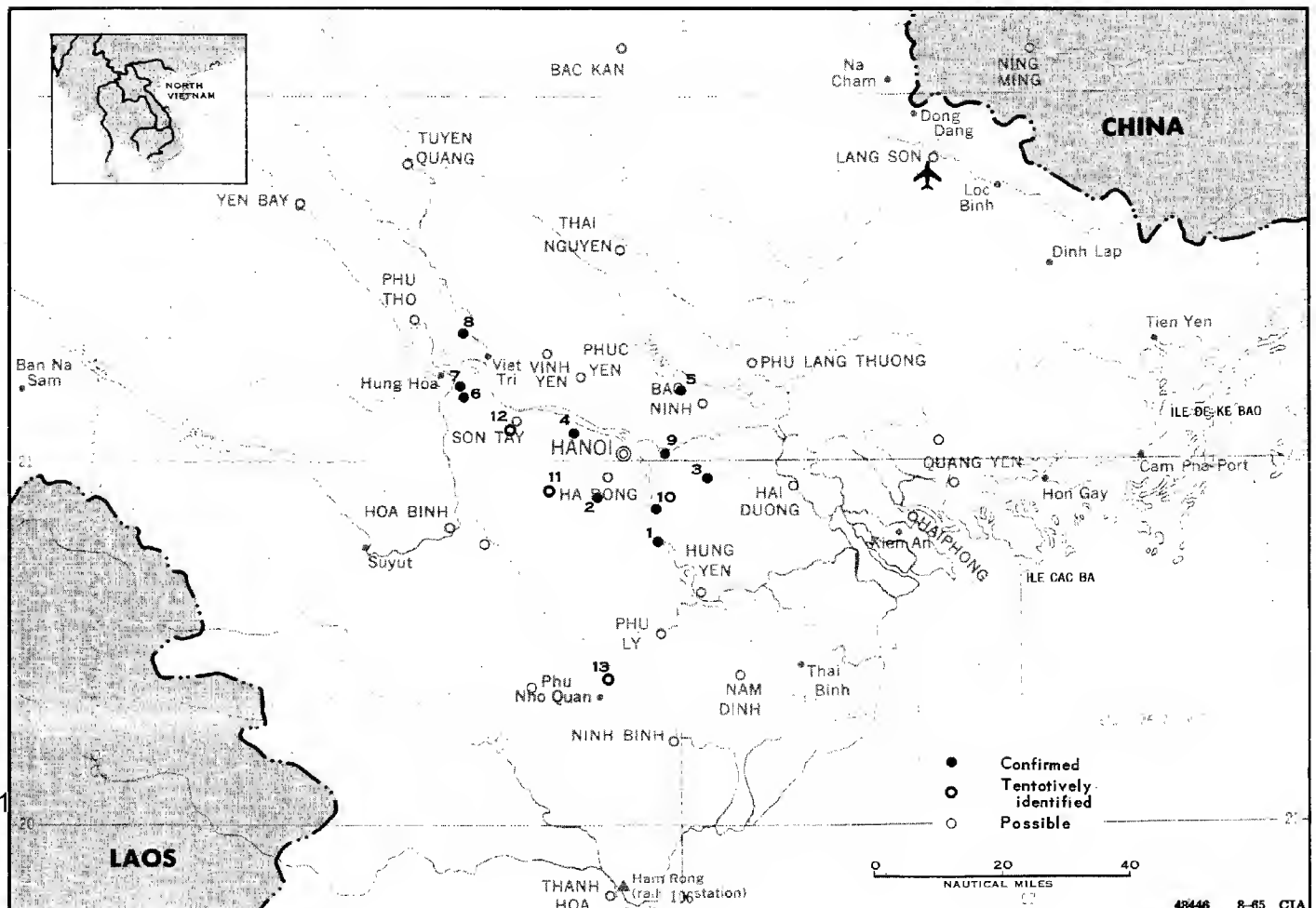
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[redacted] The site is located about 38 miles south of Hanoi. It contains six launch revetments, a guidance revetment and three possible hold revetments.

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NORTH VIETNAM: SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES



24 Aug 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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Photography [] revealed revetment construction activity at Lang Son airfield, some nine miles from the Chinese border. Seven medium size revetments are in various stages of construction. Lang Son has a 3,600-foot earthen runway. Revetment and runway construction and repair work have been noted at a number of North Vietnamese airfields over the past few months. The primary purpose of this activity is probably to provide the North Vietnamese air force with suitable dispersal and recovery facilities.

Communist Political Developments: Hanoi is evidently concerned over the possible loss of leftist support throughout the world as a result of its repeated rejection of third-party proposals to end the Vietnam war. A 20 August "Observer" commentary in the North Vietnamese army journal, broadcast internationally by Hanoi radio, sought to counter this loss by spelling out what Hanoi considers necessary for mediation to be effective.

The article asserted that "if anyone wants to act as a mediator," he cannot put the US "aggressors on a par with the victims of aggression," i.e., the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese. Potential mediators, the commentary advised, should not "recommend that both sides show less intransigence" but should work to "compel" the US to stop its "aggression."

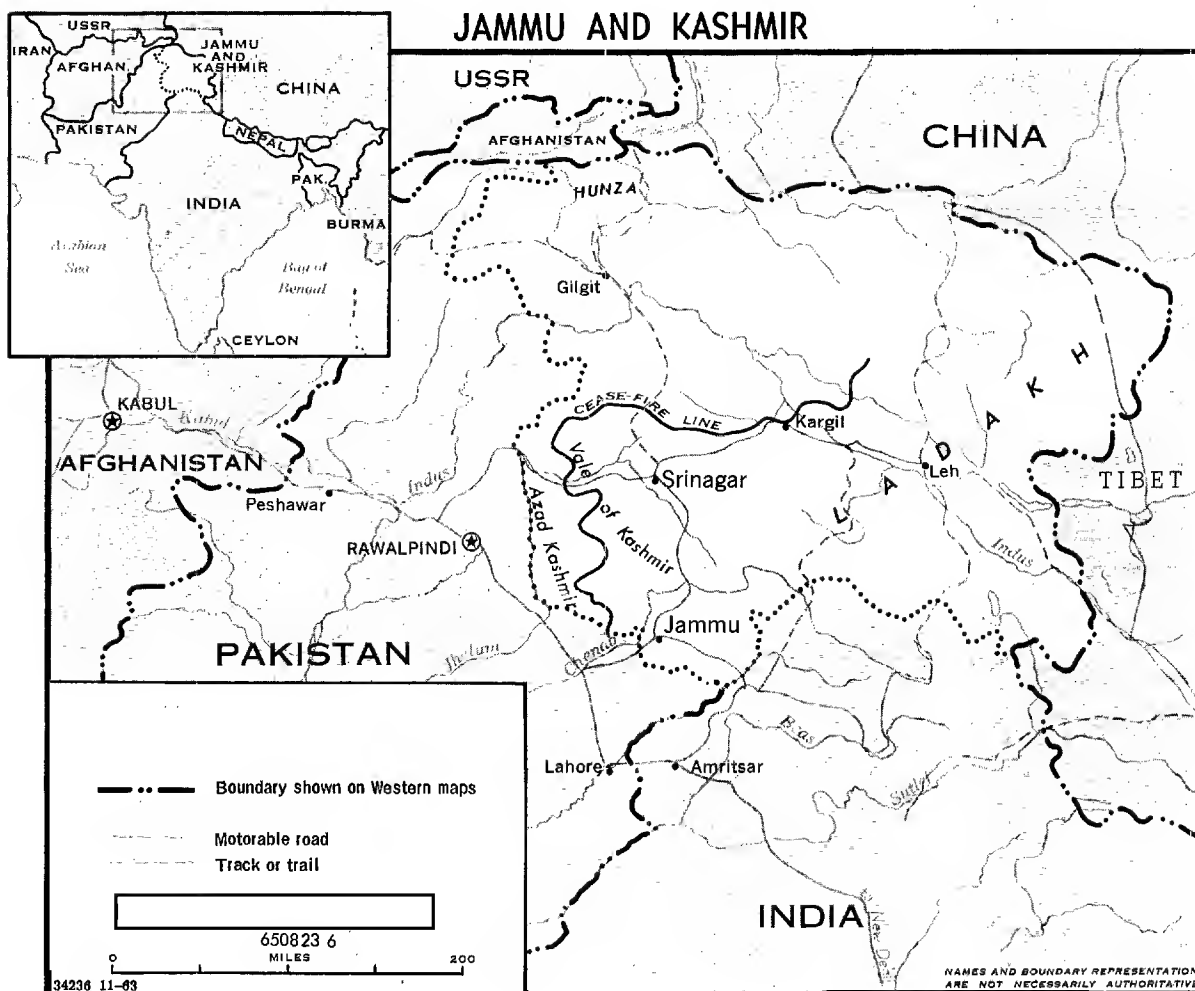
In what amounted to a demand for a unilateral ceasefire by the US, "Observer" declared that the US must give "concrete manifestations" that it accepts the Hanoi "four-point" proposals. The article attempted to shift to the US all onus for a failure, thus far, to achieve a settlement of the war by asserting that the US is "unquestionably and deliberately throwing every possibility" of a political settlement into the "greatest impasse." The US does this, according to "Observer," by "failing to ever speak" of withdrawing its troops from South Vietnam or of ending the bombing of North Vietnam as well as by continuing to increase its troop strength in Vietnam.

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Kashmir: [Pakistani infiltrations are reported continuing.]

[Clashes and artillery exchanges are still occurring at various points along the cease-fire line. Pakistan and India have each reinforced troop strength in Kashmir by about 3,000 men during the past week. India's troop and police strength in Kashmir normally is maintained at about 100,000 men, and Pakistan's at about 40,000.]

[There is no further word on the status of the Bunche mission UN Secretary General Thant dispatched to South Asia this week end. The Indians presumably hope to limit Bunche's investigations to the rights and wrongs of the immediate situation, mainly involving infiltrations and cease-fire line violations.]

[Indian counteractions along the line, however, are beginning to obscure New Delhi's case. The Pakistanis can be expected to exploit this in their effort to shift from consideration of the immediate conflict to a discussion of an over-all Kashmir settlement.]

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Greece: Premier Tsirimokos' chances of winning the parliamentary vote of confidence expected this week remain doubtful.

Tsirimokos has been counting on defections from the ranks of Papandreou's Center Union deputies. However, the recent pro-Papandreou demonstrations and the former premier's tour of the countryside may help keep his followers in line.

More demonstrations are planned to coincide with the convening of Parliament today. Although the government has imposed an indefinite ban on all street demonstrations, additional violence could break out.

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Dominican Republic: The rebels are reportedly willing to sign the Act of Reconciliation, but with reservations regarding withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF).

The rebels have drafted an appeal to Latin American governments urging them to recognize the provisional government's right to determine the date of IAPF withdrawal. The draft proposes that this action be taken by a meeting of OAS foreign ministers before the interim regime takes office.

The OAS Committee is hopeful that the proposed appeal is for the political record and that the rebels will sign irrespective of what comes of it. If issuance of the appeal coincides with signature of the act, as it now appears, the rebel maneuver might appear to have the tacit acceptance of the OAS Committee and Hector Garcia Godoy.

Extremists and obstructionists may still resist the decision to sign the act which was pressed on them by more moderate elements. The Communist-controlled paper Patria continues to call for withdrawal of the IAPF one month after the installation of a new government, [and rebel foreign minister Jottin Cury has called the OAS terms "impossible."]

Difficulties may also be posed by Imbert and some members of his government, if they decide that the modifications in the act are too favorable to the rebels. [redacted]

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[redacted] his regime has frequently reiterated it will sign only if no changes are made.

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NOTES

Tanzania - Communist China: [Twelve Communist Chinese are now en route to survey the Tanzanian section of the proposed Tanzan-Zambia railroad, despite President Nyerere's earlier assurance to the US ambassador that Peking's help would be rejected. Nyerere has said that he suspects the British are dragging their feet on their promised feasibility study, and he may believe the Chinese presence will bring pressure on them.]

[] He has also said that even if the West builds the railroad the Chinese will be directed to other projects, such as exploiting coal fields useful in connection with the railroad. 7

India: Food Minister Subramaniam has predicted that prospects for the fall harvest will be bleak in most parts of India unless abundant rains begin within the next few days. Two qualified observers have told US officials in Bombay that food grain production for the agricultural year ending June 1966 could fall as low as 82-85 million tons, in contrast to last year's 87.5 million tons. To meet the current annual demand of about 94 million tons, imports may soon be required at a level which would severely strain harbor facilities. Deliveries to the market are already below normal, and rapidly rising prices have triggered several food riots.

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